



Biodiesel firm opening site in Dain City



By [Allan Benner](#), The Tribune
Friday, June 1, 2012 12:52:38 EDT PM



Illustration of new Great Lakes Biodiesel facility.

WELLAND - By this fall, the largest producer of biodiesel in Canada will open its doors in Dain City. Great Lakes Biodiesel Inc. announced Wednesday that the company has reached the final stage of construction on its plant at 1 St. Clair Dr. — a plant that will produce 170 million litres of biodiesel a year making it the largest producer of the cleaner-burning fuel.

In a media release, Barry Kramble, the company's chief executive officer, said the objective of his company "is to provide Canadian oil refiners and obligated parties that are required to blend biodiesel with diesel under the federal 2% mandate, with a dependable, high quality, domestically produced ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) biodiesel."

He was referring to a federal government initiative as part of the ecoENERGY Program, requiring 2% of diesel fuel to come from renewable sources.

The fuel produced at the Welland facility will come from made from vegetable oil from canola and soybean crops.

Michelle Dias, from public relations firm NKPR, said the company is "very excited to be in Welland," calling it an "ideal location" for the plant.

In addition to transportation services in the area, she said the company has also found a lot of support from the city.

"They're really proud of the fact that it is Ontario-based and in the Niagara Region as well," she said.

The plant will employ 20 to 25 people, and Dias said far more related jobs will be created in the agriculture industry as a result of the production of biodiesel.

"I know that they will be working with the farmers in the general vicinity," Dias said, although she didn't know how many indirect jobs would be created.

It's a project that is also receiving a warm reception from the Grain Farmers of Ontario.

Barry Senft, the organization's chief executive officer, said biodiesel holds great potential for "the province through the proven environmental benefits from lower emissions and the opportunities it brings through expanded markets to our 28,000 farmer members."

"We would like to see a two percent biodiesel mandate implemented by our provincial government to

encourage even further development of this kind in Ontario,” Senft said.
More information about the project is available on the company’s website: www.greatlakesbiodiesel.ca.